

Army Punishes 3 Officers for Misusing Intelligence

By JARED STOUT
Newhouse News Service

WASHINGTON—Three senior Army officers have been punished for their part in ordering, then covering up, an Army intelligence probe done as a favor for a private businessman. The probe cost a civilian his job.

All three officers have been reprimanded. Two of them, the deputy commander and the director of investigations for the Army Intelligence Command at Fort Holabird, Md., have or will be retired. Both men were colonels.

The third man was a captain who ordered the probe when he was assistant operations officer of the 771st Military Intelligence Detachment (MID) at San Juan, Puerto Rico. Pentagon action is under way to strip him of an Army commendation medal.

Pentagon-level investigation showed the probe was covered up because officers at Fort Holabird believed it was ordered by the then head of the intelligence command, Gen. William H. Blakefield, and the probe's subject was a Blakefield relative.

The Pentagon inquiry also



SEN. SAM ERVIN
probe revealed

planned about the matter with prosecution under espionage laws, after delaying action on his complaint for eight months.

The case was the first known instance of Army punishment for officers misusing domestic intelligence. It was disclosed in documents on file Monday with the Army and Sen. Sam J. Ervin's (D., N.C.) Constitutional Rights Subcommittee.

The case arose from an agent's complaint to superiors over an assignment given him on Aug. 13, 1969.

The agent, who asked not to be identified, was told to

gather information on Joseph Lynch, then a messenger in the St. Croix office of Western Union International. Lynch had no connection with the Army or access to classified material.

The agent was told by the assistant operations officer of the 771st MID to report his findings to Lynch's superior, Nigel B. Davis, chief of the Western Union Cable office.

Davis was "a drinking buddy" of the operations officer, the documents said. Davis told the investigating agent Western Union was trying to lure Lynch, but did not have sufficient evidence to do so.